

# THE JERUSALEM POST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1952 PRICE: 40 PRUTA VOL. XXVIII, No. 7197

Column One  
By  
David Courtney

## Heavy Cuts For France, Britain

**FOMAL** talks between Britain and Egypt will begin on Saturday. Evidently, a new starting-point has been set and a circumscribed range established. From Ali Maher Pasha's statement, it would seem that means rather than ends will be the main concern of the conference. Face-saving formulas will have to be worked out and a way found of halving present security needs against future political concerns. The Egyptian Prime Minister has emphasised the need for speed; and the Wafid have been generous with warnings against "British tactics of procrastination." But the talks may be expected to occupy all of March and to work up to an advanced stage when the Arab League meeting, called by Nasser, takes place in Cairo on March 29.

The docility of the Wafid has been curious. After challenging the Government early last week and securing a Parliamentary adjournment, the Party again turned tail and gave unanimous support to Ali Maher Pasha. It is thought that the King may have intervened; for it is known that he could easily be prevailed into dissolving a Parliament that is still predominantly Wafid. It is also thought that the United States may have made it clear that another crisis would result in a withdrawal of American offers of help. The Wafid, Pasha are said to be nervous already about the effects of an unstable situation upon foreign capital undertakings estimated at 20 million pounds. In any event, last week's lunge was short-lived, and it looks as if the new Anglo-Egyptian talks will be able to get under way without hindrance.

**THE** British objective goes beyond a settlement of Britain's own peculiar conflict with Egypt. It is to organise Middle East defence and to do so in a way likely to ensure the continuance of British dominance in regional politics. The Egyptians seem ready to go along the road towards this objective but only within the terms of Article 52 of the U.N. Charter, to which the signatures of the Arab League Security Pact would be linked. From all accounts, this is the solution originally proposed by Nuri Pasha, the Iraqi Prime Minister, who visited London last December. London was a trifle frigid about Nuri Pasha's plan. Washington liked them no better. Israel, of course, would regard their acceptance with dismay. But it is clear that the Egyptians will press hard for a regional system that would have the effect of equipping and partly financing the Arab armies from Western sources, whilst leaving them free to be used for international purposes — for example, against Israel — as well as for defence in alliance with the four sponsoring Powers of the Command, against external aggression.

**BRITISH** comment on the new talks is cautious when pessimistic. Some observers see little that is now or promising in the present approach and are doubtful whether negotiations can be worth while or whether the difficulties of war are plain to see. The Egyptian insistence on means rather than ends may, of course, leave the way open for a formula of face-saving, and doing. But words and phrases in Cairo are extraordinarily flexible and there is no assurance that their connotation tomorrow. It is a little difficult to see how Egyptian national sentiments, which were high a few weeks ago, can be kept at the level to which they have lately subsided unless some substantial part of the country's claims against Britain is conceded. The King's authority has been impressively demonstrated, of course. The Pasha, having looked into the raging furnace of revolution, feel chastened. And the popular leaders, shocked by martial law here, have very little room to move. Even so, the forces have only been stunned. At any moment they may come to life.

**EISENHOWER** To Visit Greece, Turkey (UPI). — General Eisenhower, accompanied by his Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, will leave on Monday for visits to Turkey and Greece, the two countries just admitted to membership of NATO.

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Tel Aviv, February 28.



ZION  
INSURANCE  
COMPANY  
LTD.



S. CHARE'S  
Furs  
Elegant  
DRESSES

The Pillars, Babylonia Jaffa, Jerusalem

## Arab League Link With SACME Planned in Cairo

**LONDON**, Wednesday (ITNA) — Egyptian projects to link the Arab League's Collective Security Pact to some scheme for Middle Eastern defence against outside attack were widely reported and commented on in today's British and U.S. press.

The diplomatic correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" expressed the opinion that "if Egypt proposes, as some reports say, to link the Middle East Command to the Arab League, it would cause uneasiness in Israel. Mr. Sharqi may have something to say about Israel's attitude when he arrives in London at the end of the week." The article went on to stress that Israel would insist on guarantees that arms given to the Arabs by the West would not be used against her.

"The Times" carried a report from its Cairo correspondent stating that the Egyptian Premier's military advisory committee had recommended that the Arab League's Collective Security Pact — which is directed against Israel —

should be revised to take into account the dangers of aggression from outside the Middle East.

It would probably be illusory to suppose that the Western powers would have to sacrifice something in technical and military security and efficiency in order to gain greater voluntary cooperation of Egyptian Government and people, the correspondent pointed out.

The "New York Times" reported that what was intended there that the Arab League would propose to link the pact to SACME, which it regards as a tool for safeguarding "imperialist interests."

**Labour Unity Blow**

Palestinians, observers generally agreed that Labour Party unity suffered a damaging blow in yesterday's debate. According to this view, Mr. Churchill last night defeated a personal measure moved by the Labour opposition, bitterly critical of his recent Washington talks with President Truman. The House of Commons, by 318 votes to 285, refused to endorse Labour's charge that Mr. Churchill had failed to give "adequate expression" in his speech to Britain's Far East policy.

Meeting the opposition challenge to say whether there had been a "major shift" in his policy, Mr. Churchill told a crowded House he had made no new commitments and no "secret or private arrangements" with Mr. Truman or the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson.

The former Foreign Minister, Mr. Herbert Morrison, leading the opposition attack, had accused Mr. Churchill of coming back from Washington with "negative expressions and possibly grave consequences."

**U.K. Spending Slashed**

British Government departments have slashed their spending programmes for next year by £250m. to pay the increased cost of a £100m. loan received by the Committee of Financial Estimates yesterday. The report added that this figure would just cover the extra amounts needed next year.

Even the amounts spent on strategic stock-piling would be cut drastically — from £180m. in 1951 to £15m. in 1952, the report said.

The estimate indicated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Richard Butler, would seek a budget of some £437m., in his budget to be presented to Parliament next Tuesday.

Another report issued yesterday recorded his new delays in Britain's first budget since the start of the "severe hock" on Britain's arms drive caused by shortages of materials.

Britain's trade union leaders yesterday called for higher taxes to help the nation pay its way through the economic crisis. They urged an income-tax, which would hit the upper middle classes hardest, since most manual workers do not earn enough to qualify for the standard rate.

(AP, Reuters)

## Lisbon Greatest NATO Success

**WASHINGTON**, Wednesday (UPI). — President Truman declared today that the Lisbon session of the North Atlantic Council had been "the most successful" yet of the Western Allies' conferences.

Speaking at Washington airport, as he personally welcomed back the U.S. delegates, Mr. Dean Acheson, Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. John Snyder, the President congratulated them and said, "I think we have accomplished in the last few days the things we have been working for in the last three or four years."

Mr. Acheson replied that he thought, "We have accomplished what a set out to accomplish. Mr. Snyder said, "We are entering a period now where progress becomes accomplishment."

To this the Communists tentatively agreed.

Staff officers discussing supervision of an armistice were still in deadlock over Russia's neutrality and her fitness to provide armistice inspectors, but they agreed to meet again tomorrow.

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**Money Circulation Shows No Change**

**TEL AVIV**, Wednesday — No change was registered in the amount of currency in circulation during the past week. The total figure is IL 110,907,738,000.

The dollar was quoted at IL 2,700 on the black market today, while the Sovereign which has gone as low as IL 33,500 climbed up to IL 33,500 today.

## Israel Signs Air Pact with France

**HAKIRYA**, Wednesday — An air agreement between Israel and France on the rights of El Al and Air France was signed here today by M. Edward Guyot, the French Minister, and Mr. Meir Barzur, head of the Economic Division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The Minister of Justice, Dr. Dov Joseph, acknowledged in the Knesset yesterday that his description of "lenient" penalties for persons consigned of assaulting policemen as "an insult to the law" might have been "too sharp." He also admitted that his statement that "Judges have no wings" had been "perhaps too pictorial."

Although he stressed that he had not intended to offend the judiciary, Dr. Joseph insisted that he had the right to criticise its judgments. At the same time, he sharply attacked the President of the Supreme Court, Dr. Moshe Smadar, for sending a letter of protest to the Knesset Speaker without first giving the Minister a chance to explain.

The financial settlement, like those with other countries, regulates services connected with the activities of Air France in Israel and of El Al in France.

Israel has so far signed air pacts with the U.S., Britain and France. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Civil Aviation Department of the Ministry of Transport, is responsible for drafting agreements with a number of other West European countries.

The financial settlement was composed of high-level officials of the French Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Communications and Air France. The Israeli delegation was made up of officials of the Economic Division of the Foreign Ministry.

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THE STATE OF ISRAEL

EXCEPTION to the prevailing arrangements on rearmament, and cannot be as strong as its neighbours continue to build up armaments and shore up economies for no other apparent

purpose than the resumption of war with Israel. We may be sure that the Foreign Minister, Mr. Sharot, spoke in these terms to Mr. Eden during their secret meeting in London a few weeks ago, and that the matter will again be raised, within the circumference of the Middle East regional defence proposals, when Mr. Sharot and Mr. Eden meet once more in London towards the middle of March.

The full process of rearming the Arab States depends, of course, on a successful outcome to the Anglo-Egyptian talks and an effective agreement on the subject of Arab participation alongside Turkey and the Western Powers in a regional security pact, but it is clear that plans are already shaping for the training of certain Arab national armies and the delivery to them of modern weapons. General Sir Brian Robertson, British Commonwealth Chief, Middle East Land Forces, visited Iraq a few days ago and is reported to have discussed the question of arm supplies with the Iraqi military authorities. Iraq's geographical position, in Turkey's rear and against the western frontiers of Persia, naturally gives that country a peculiar significance in the calculations of collective regional defence. But that fact in itself emphasizes Israel's need to watch carefully the course of events and to impress upon the Western Powers, from whom both the form and substance—in terms of arms—of a Middle East Command must come, the dangers felt in this country and the necessity to ensure Israel's security against possible aggression from within the region, as well as from outside.

Naturally, the most effective insurance would be a series of peace settlements between Israel and the Arab States; and, curiously enough, there have been a number of reports in Arab newspapers during the past few weeks in which the prospect of peace negotiations has been seriously raised. For example, the influential Cairo weekly "Rose of Youself," on February 11, claimed to have received confirmation, from diplomatic sources, of a report that all the members of the Arab League had expressed willingness to enter into direct peace negotiations with Israel. Similar reports, again mostly official, have appeared in the Soviet Press from the Beirut and Rome correspondents of the official Tass agency.

On the assumption that where there is smoke, there must be fire of one kind or another, it would be foolish, perhaps, to reject these reports as merely irresponsible. But their origin, whatever it is, must be suspect; and the most likely suspicion would seem to be that the Arab States, which apparently still hope to use the Middle East Command as a means of strengthening the collective security pact of the Arab League, are using the lure of negotiations with Israel as a bargaining counter in their talks with the United States, Britain, France and Turkey. If this is so, it represents a change of approach. Israel for its part, will need very substantial evidence before accepting it as a change of heart. It is to be hoped that there will be no important concessions or deliveries of arms by the Western Powers to the Arab States before that evidence becomes available.

**ON THE AIR**

English News 2 and 3 10 p.m.

10.30 p.m. Moscow Concert (10)

11.30 p.m. Hungarian Concert (10)

12.30 a.m. French Concert (10)

1 (Break) 3.30 a.m. Circus

4.30 a.m. Musical Matinees (10) 1.30 p.m. English Concert (10)

4.30 p.m. French Concert (10)

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